



Perth Grammar School Parent Council

Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday 30th April 2024, 6.30pm.

Attending: Janice Napier, Jenny Robertson, Fiona Robertson, Roy McIntosh, Alexandra McQueen, David Sinclair, Meghan McAvoiy, Cllr Andrew Parrott, Cllr Chris Ahern, Scott Jewell

Apologies: Archie Mitchell and Alasdair Dawes

1.	Welcome and apologies	RM
2.	Head Teacher Report	FR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing - We said goodbye to Alfie (Brian) Arnott, facilities assistant after 29 years between Perth Grammar (and formerly, St Columba) and we welcome Derek Briggs from Tayside Contracts. Iain Lawson has taken up post as Senior Technician. Lindsay Waterson, Teacher of Music, has taken up post as Acting Principal Teacher Guidance, Almond House. • That's us into exam season and this follows a very successful study skills period again over the Spring break. • Silver rights respecting schools award certificate and banner now in school and assemblies held linking to this in relation to each Broad General Education year group having a focus on each of our values. • YPI final was judged by our Parent Council Chair and SHARP: the Scottish Heart Charity (Ninewells) were the chosen charity. • Riverside opening ceremony had taken place since our last meeting which is really positive for our LMG. • The P7 transition activity taking place has been deemed a big success with a further stage of local primaries coming in to visit prior to the two full days in June. It was agreed that we could have Transition as a theme for next Parent Council. 		

3.	<p>Awards Ceremony & Property Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim for the Award Ceremony is to have more parental engagement. This year plan is not to film any of it but instead invite parents for the certificates being given out which will be done during the day. Please note that it does not have to just be parents that can come, brothers, sisters, uncles etc...are all welcomed to attend. • Tuesday 18th June – Daytime Certificate in Assembly Hall • Thursday 20th June – Evening Ceremony in the Theatre and photos to be taken in the Assembly Hall. • Invites will follow shortly. Deadline for Teaching staff is Friday 3rd May. • The new WiFi system is being installed. Social Studies, Maths and English classes have the new WiFi and are getting a much better service although we will not see the full benefit until it is fully installed and we expect this to be in October 2024. • The fire alarm will also be improved and be much more sophisticated. • Summer Holidays – The community wing will change as of August 24 as a new group of people will come in and replace social work. The outside of the wing will change with external fences being added for young children. More information will follow as we receive more details later on. • Aly Spalding (Physics PT) is working with the Eco-Group and have decided to do litter picking during Tutor Time. Soe young people will support the community every week which is a great way to add visibility for PGS. 	SJ
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny advised that there is £3033 in the parent council bank account. £1135.65 of this belongs to a Perth Decides Fund from 2018. JR liaising with Scott Jewell on this to spend on a community garden area to replace the polycarbon tunnel as this was previously stopped by Covid. • The cost for 130 ties is £800. The Parent Council will decide on next steps as some Primary Schools are already providing ties to the P7 as a farewell gift. 	JR
5.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S1 introduction parent's evening is on Thursday 30th May • English Department – Meghan McAvoy advised they have been very busy with improving the program and have been getting feedback from learners that is very positive. The target for next year is to get more clarity and for young learners to talk about the relationship they have with their teachers. They have also found that pupils like to have a choice in their learning. • Fresh Start – David Sinclair explained it is a phonics-based program which targets students who have gaps in their learning. This is a 2 Year Program but is adaptable for S1, S2 and S3. It is very progressive for pupil's levels and there are continual assessments done both in Maths and English. This helps clearly identify where the need is and what progress has been made which is a fantastic place to be in. 	ALL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janice asked who picked the Nat5 books – The teachers decide what the students read but only have a choice to a certain extent at the moment. Meghan mentioned they are looking at more modern and diversified texts nationally which will help with student successes.• Jenny thanked the school for the study package/study school being provided and appreciates the effort everyone put in.• This is Shona's last Parent Council meeting. Shona said that 6th year has been difficult in some ways. She felt it was a shame that there was no school book or hoodies again this year and thought that the reason behind it was that maybe the kids were stretched too far and maybe needed more help/guidance. Meghan and Scott both confirmed that unfortunately many pupils had missed the deadline and that the last assembly held only half of the year group attended.• Fiona was very happy with the Young Orchestra who have some real star performances.• Fiona has decided that she will be attending the trip to Tanzania (8-22 June) and unfortunately will miss the Award Ceremony this year. Martin Reid will be Acting Headteacher/ Main whole school contact during those 2 weeks.• Cllr Andrew asked if the young people were using their Under 22 Bus Passes during their transition days and if the primary schools applied for them. Scott confirmed that although the schools can provide help, parents needed to apply for the bus pass. Andrew stated that unfortunately only half of eligible people have applied which is a shame. • Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th September at 6:30pm. The main focus of this meeting will be about the P7 Transition to S1. This will also be the AGM.	
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